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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: human resources development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulmalik **Alshabibi** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 56 (see A/60/492, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 32nd, 33rd and 34th meetings, on 23 November and 2 and 7 December 2005. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.32, 33 and 34).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.40 and A/C.2/60/L.49

2. At the 32nd meeting, on 23 November 2005, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/60/L.40), which read:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001 and 58/207 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling also the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in four parts, under the symbol A/60/492 and Add.1-3.

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Stressing that human resources development is key to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to expand opportunities for people, in particular for the most vulnerable groups of the population,

Recognizing that globalization and the evolution of information and communication technologies have made the challenge of human resources development more complex for developing countries, which face a widening gap compared with developed countries in terms of access to knowledge and information and communication technologies,

Recognizing also that international mobility, especially of highly skilled people and those with an advanced education, can have a negative impact on the efforts of developing countries to build human resources and to integrate in the global economy, and stressing the need for a global and comprehensive approach to maximize the positive impact of skilled labour mobility on human resources development in developing countries,

Emphasizing the continuing need for coordination and collaboration among the organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandates, in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in fostering their human resources development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on human resources development;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of human resources development in promoting sustainable development, and encourages Governments to integrate human resources development policies in their national development strategies;

3. *Stresses* that investment in human resources development should be an integral part of national development policies and strategies, and in this regard calls for the adoption of policies to facilitate investment focused on building human capacities and infrastructure, including, inter alia, education, health and science and technology, including information and communication technologies;

4. *Calls for* enhanced cooperation among all development partners, including those within the United Nations system, other international organizations, donors and private sector and non-governmental organizations, to support the human resources development efforts of developing countries as articulated in national development strategies;

5. *Also calls for* steps to integrate gender perspectives in human resources development, including through policies, strategies and targeted actions aimed at promoting women's capacities and access to productive activities;

6. *Encourages* the strategic and innovative use of information and communication technologies in national development policies and programmes to facilitate education, training, knowledge transfer, recruitment and job creation, and calls upon the international community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

7. *Calls upon* the relevant entities of the United Nations system to give priority to the objectives of human resources development through, inter alia, integrating in their development programmes explicit support for building science and technology capacities compatible with local needs, resources, culture and practices;

8. *Further calls upon* the international community, including the entities of the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries to address the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases on their human resources;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution with a focus on the role of science and technology in promoting human resources development;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".

3. At the 33rd meeting, on 2 December 2005, the Committee decided to postpone action on the draft resolution to its next meeting.

4. At the 34th meeting, on 7 December 2005, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/60/L.49) which was submitted by the Rapporteur, Abdulmalik Alshabibi (Yemen), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.40.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.49 (see para. 9).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see A/C.2/60/SR.34).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.49, draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.40 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Human resources development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001 and 58/207 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Stressing that human resources development is key to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to expand opportunities for people, in particular for the most vulnerable groups of the population,

Recognizing that globalization and the evolution of information and communication technologies can make the challenge of human resources development more complex for developing countries, and recognizing also the increasing development gap between developed and developing countries, including the gap in knowledge and in access to information and communication technologies, and the disparity of income within and among nations and its adverse impact on human resources development in developing countries,

Noting the impact of the movement of highly skilled people and those with an advanced education on human resources development and sustainable development in developing countries, and stressing the need for a global and comprehensive approach to maximize the positive impact of skilled labour mobility on human resources development,

Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and the need for greater support from the international community for the national efforts of developing countries,

Stressing also that health and education are at the core of human resources development and the need to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education,

Emphasizing the continuing need for coordination and collaboration among the organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandates, in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in fostering their human resources development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] A/60/318.

2. *Recognizes* the importance of human resources development in promoting sustainable development, and encourages Governments to integrate human resources development policies in their national development strategies;

3. *Stresses* that investment in human resources development should be an integral part of national development policies and strategies, and in this regard calls for the adoption of policies to facilitate investment focused on infrastructure and capacity development, including, inter alia, education, health and science and technology, including information and communication technologies;

4. *States* the importance of ensuring adequate resources for education as a fundamental aspect of eradicating poverty and promoting development with a view to achieving sustainable economic growth and human development and, in this regard, encourages Governments to manage resources assigned to education in a responsible, accurate and transparent way and to ensure accountability;

5. *Calls for* enhanced cooperation among all development partners, including those within the United Nations system, other international organizations, donors and private sector and non-governmental organizations, to support the human resources development efforts of developing countries as articulated in national development strategies;

6. *Also calls for* steps to integrate gender perspectives in human resources development, including through policies, strategies and targeted actions aimed at promoting women's capacities and access to productive activities, and in this regard emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of such policies, strategies and actions;

7. *Urges* the adoption of cross-sectoral approaches to human resources development, which combine, among other factors, economic growth, poverty eradication, the provision of basic social services, sustainable livelihoods, the empowerment of women, the involvement of young people, the needs of vulnerable groups of society and of local indigenous communities, political freedom, popular participation and respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity in order to meet the challenge of development;

8. *Encourages* the strategic and innovative use of information and communication technologies in national development policies and programmes to facilitate education, training, knowledge-sharing, recruitment and job creation, stresses the importance of implementing the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted during the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held at Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, as a step towards addressing these challenges, and calls upon the international community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

9. *Calls upon* the relevant entities of the United Nations system to give priority to the objectives of human resources development through, inter alia, integrating in their development programmes explicit support for building science and technology capacities compatible with local needs, resources, culture and practices;

10. *Calls upon* the international community, including the entities of the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries to address the

adverse effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases on their human resources;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution with a focus on the role of science and technology in promoting human resources development;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".